

## **ICC Beneficial Electrification Workshops Comments Received Following January 19, 2022 Equity-Focused Meeting**

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### **Email Received 1/29/2022**

Good Day Ms. Johnson,

I am submitting comments to the ICC on Beneficial Electrification Programs. In regards to the question: How can Illinois utilities support electric vehicle equity in their Beneficial Electrification Programs? What could that support look like? I wish to submit the following public comment:

The intent of CEJA and the reason that I spent years advocating for its passage is the critical need for immediate, strong action to end our use of fossil fuels. Since transportation is now the largest source of carbon emitting gases, conversion to electric vehicles and supporting infrastructure is an opportunity to reach the goals of CEJA.

A large hurdle in reducing carbon emissions is the limitations of charging stations. The beneficial electrification program can jump that hurdle by building charging stations along our interstates. Again, the intent of CEJA was to create a carbon free infrastructure with environmental justice as a priority. This is the perfect opportunity and I will use Joliet, Illinois as an example. The junction of Interstates 55 and 80 is home to the largest warehouse facility in the United States. Trucks servicing the warehouses are emitting high levels of dangerous diesel pollution creating health problems for the underserved minority citizens living in the area and forced to work at low paying warehouse jobs. It is essential that we retire diesel trucks and busses and provide the infrastructure needed for electric vehicles.

This program has the opportunity and the responsibility of making sure that the limited money available for charging stations build these stations in neighborhoods like Joliet to begin to alleviate the injustices that created these environmentally unjust communities. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dorelle Ackermann  
19254 Mansfield Lane  
Mokena, IL. 60448  
773-562-0608

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### **Email Received 1/30/2022**

To The ICC,

I am submitting comments to the ICC on the Beneficial Electrification Programs.

Utilities need to include electric vehicle equity in their Beneficial Electrification Program. This may be accomplished by making electric charging for buses and semi trucks a top priority. The reason that this is very important is because buses and semi trucks spew diesel pollution into the air. Diesel particulate matter is a known carcinogen and it is also harmful to the human respiratory system.

Many communities in Illinois are located in areas near warehouses. People that live near warehouses, train traffic, and highways are exposed to more diesel pollution from trucks and trains. Therefore, ICC needs to ensure that Illinois utilities prioritize providing electrical vehicle charging stations in areas of Illinois that have the highest levels of diesel pollution. Thank you for considering public comments about this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jenifer Garlitz  
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Joliet, IL 60435  
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#### **Email Received 2/1/2022**

Ms Johnson,

I work in the Metro East area and am very aware that Madison and St. Clair counties are among the most polluted in the state due to diesel trucks. I am writing to urge the ICC to prioritize electrifying diesel trucks in the state and don't forget about the Metro-East.

Additionally, it appears public meetings are scheduled on WebEx. As an organizer I know that many of our volunteers have a difficult time with WebEx. It would be great for the meetings for public communication and comment to be made more accessible.

Finally, please make sure that Environmental Justice communities are prioritized! They have been suffering from far too much pollution for far too long.

Thank you for your time.

Best,  
Sally

Sally Burgess (she, hers)  
Sierra Club Illinois  
Downstate Organizer  
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(618) 779-5378 (texts or calls welcome)

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#### **Email Received 2/1/2022**

I am submitting public comments in advance of the Feb 16th workshop. The utilities should prioritize reducing diesel pollution and prioritize funding for buses and public transit in environmental justice and low income communities. Ameren should be held to similar standards to ComEd.

Thanks,  
Amanda Pankau

Monticello, Illinois

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### Email Received 2/1/2022

Tyshianna Bankhead  
Faith Coalition for the Common Good - Community Organizer  
Springfield, IL Resident

My first car was supposed to be an electric vehicle. I went to the dealership with expectations of getting a vehicle that was eco-friendly, budget friendly, and a step into the future. Due to the limited charging hubs, little knowledge in my community about electric vehicles, and affordability; I left that day with a gas guzzler. The impacted community needs to be at the table and have a voice when discussing Beneficial electrification. There needs to be an accessible way to get working class people on the call to voice their/our opinions and express the need for electrical vehicles in our communities. Having the meetings on Zoom or Google Meets at a time that works for the majority of people would be a start. Thank you.

Thank you,  
*Tyshianna Bankhead*  
Community Organizer  
[Faith Coalition for the Common Good](#)  
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Cell: (217) 622 – 3139

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### Email Received 2/1/2022

Ms. Johnson:

In the spirit of the clear intent of CEJA to emphasize equity, I'd like to make a couple of comments on how the BE funds should be spent:

- As part of the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition, I'd like to see the ICC **prioritizing a shift away from diesel trucks and thus the sources of diesel pollution** that especially affects environmental justice communities.
- Our coalition is asking that at least 50% of these funds go to environmental justice and low income communities, but that percentage could and should go higher than that.

In administering the use of these funds, I think it is important to focus on projects such as the warehouse and transit node now being constructed in Little Village on the former Crawford coal plant site and the increasing placement of scrap metal processors on Chicago's Southeast Side. These projects are bringing diesel trucks by the thousands into neighborhoods that are already suffering excessive pollution.

I'd also like to point out that your use of webex for the forum makes it hard for many people to access and participate. I hope that is not the intent.

Thanks for your attention.  
Linc Cohen

1301 W Byron St  
Chicago  
312-909-2810

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**Email Received 2/3/2022**

Dear Celia,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on beneficial electrification. I encourage the Illinois Commerce Commission to prioritize reducing diesel pollution, and investing in environmental justice, low-income, and communities of color, as you draft recommendations for beneficial electrification.

Diesel pollution is deadly, and is a huge source of pollution in Chicago. The Chicago Tribune recently reported that [Chicago ranks 3rd nationally in deaths from diesel pollution](#). Where I live in the Bridgeport neighborhood of Chicago, a new Amazon facility is being constructed. I'm not happy about the increase in truck traffic to my neighborhood, but a small solace would be knowing that we're investing in reducing diesel pollution from as many places as possible (ex/ school buses, CTA, garbage trucks, etc).

My neighborhood doesn't have it the worst though. Where I used to live, farther south in Canaryville, the air was considerably dirtier than where I live now, partially because of all the trucks coming in and out of the Stock Yards Industrial Park. Additionally, when I would walk to the 47th Red Line, I would walk past a Norfolk Southern Rail Yard, located right near the highway. So many polluting trucks would be pulling in and out of that facility, which was located in Fuller Park, a predominantly black neighborhood.

It's neighborhoods like this who we should be prioritizing investing in. Companies will be investing in putting electric transportation infrastructure in wealthy, white areas with or without incentives. I urge the ICC to prioritize putting at least 50% of this funding in under-resourced communities, and would personally be delighted if all of it went to these communities. I also urge the ICC to prioritize reducing diesel pollution, as diesel pollution is deadly, and disproportionately impacts environmental justice communities.

Thank you for your time!

Caroline

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Caroline Wooten  
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